

FOREIGN DIVERSIFICATION AND PERFORMANCE OF QUOTED DEPOSIT MONEY BANKS IN SELECTED SUB-SAHARA AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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Abstract: *Foreign diversification offers prospective market opportunities which afford firms prospects for greater growth and penetration of global markets. This study investigated the effect of foreign diversification on performance of quoted deposit money banks in selected Sub-Sahara African countries; Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The study employs secondary data collected and computed from sampled deposit money banks annual audited financial statements. Employing the use of descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, panel unit root analysis, co-integration test, multivariate panel data analysis and the system- GMM for a period of 2007 – 2017, the data were estimated with the aid of Eviews 9.0 econometric statistical package. Using dependent variables (Net interest margin and Tobin Q), explanatory variables of foreign diversification, bank's size and bank's age respectively. The findings revealed that foreign diversifications have negative and significant effect on all the performance indicators (NIM and TOBIN Q) used in the study. The explanatory variable (foreign diversification) was significant at 1% significance level. The findings from robustness check showed that the coefficients of foreign diversification are also largely negative for most of the banks. This study therefore recommends, amongst others, banks should consider diversification as a long run strategy for promoting growth and other forms of expansions. This can be achieved by promoting more regional banking integration within the sub-region. Given that formalities are already on the ground to facilitate entry and establishment within economies in the regional blocs, diversification in this direction will involve less institutional obstacles.*

Keywords: System-GMM, Foreign diversification, Regional banking, Net interest margin.

JEL classification: G30, G34.

1. Introduction

All over the globe, businesses are establishing outlets in other areas in order to remain competitive and hedge against risk and provide more returns for their shareholders. The deposit money banks in selected sub-Sahara African countries are not left out in this new scheme of expanding their reach to their customers in other parts of the world. The urge for corporate managers to positively structure how the firm's business is conducted because corporate firms are working in milieu that are ever more vague, multifarious, aggressive, dynamic and volatile (Ojo, 2009). According to Thomson, Gamble, and Strickland (2004), the worth of decision-making strategic input, plans and implementation has an extremely affirmative effect on earnings, cash flows, and returns on investment. An appropriate strategy in the business environment has the propensity to push an organization from a

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stragglers situation into one in control such that the corporate organization's outputs in form of good/services becomes the industry standard.

The central key strategy engaged by corporate firms in an attempt to improve their performance is diversification. The performance of corporate firms are boosted by diversification because the existing internal and external resources are leveraged on, in order to support other ventures, thus complementing the general performance of the corporate firm. Diversification helps corporate firms build the needed exigency for enhancing shareholders value by using prior assets (Thomson *et al.*, 2004). As documented by Ansoff (1957), diversification is manifested in diverse forms which can assume market penetration, market development and product development. Foreign diversification can be situated under market penetration owing to the fact that deposit money banks are taking their business to other areas.

Competition has increased in the banking sector due to the deregulation and liberalization witnessed in a number of countries in the last twenty years by encouraging non-banking players to join the industry (Mulwa&Kosgei, 2016). Deposit money banks have responded to the competition pressure by raising their involvement in modern intermediation services such as investment banking and insurance and delving into other domains (real estate, oil and gas financing) that were prior tagged as risky (Gamra & Plihon, 2011). In addition, deposit money banks have significantly expanded their outlets in domains that were prior viewed as unproductive. Since universal banking system is not appealing any longer in the sub-Sahara region, owing to turbulent operating environment most deposit money banks have to resort to corporate diversification. Deposit money banks now operates in shores outside their original domicile in order to extend their services to other climes and by so doing having wider coverage and increasing their returns.

Corporate diversification and performance of deposit money banks has been largely explored from diverse methodologies such as correlation, anova, ordinary least squares simple and multiple regression analysis, panel regression analysis, data envelopment analysis and Hirschman Herfindahl index (Ojo, 2011; Ugwuanyi, & Ugwu, 2012; Turkmen & Yigit, 2012; Brighi & Venturelli, 2013; Chen; Wei, Zhang, & Shi, 2013; Meysam & Shavazipour, 2013; Mulwa, Tarus & Kosgei, 2015; Berg, 2016; Krivokapic, Njegomir & Stojic, 2017). These methods are largely part of conventional techniques. Unfortunately, these approaches have their drawbacks and demerits in that they are sensitive to outliers, focuses on the mean of the dependent variables, the test statistics might be unreliable when data is not normally distributed (Feng *et al.*, 2014). The drawback of data envelopment analysis can also include that it converges slowly to absolute efficiency i.e it is only suitable for relative efficiency and the problem of computation in regards to large decision-making units (Charnes, Cooper & Rhodes, 1978). Thus, this study therefore intends to make use of system generalized method of moments (system-GMM) to analyse the dynamic panel data owing to its superiority in terms of efficiency, correction of endogeneity problem, measurement biases and omitted variables. The system GMM estimator is known and expected to produce less biased and more precise estimates.

The central purpose of this study is to examine the effect of foreign diversification on performance of quoted deposit money banks in selected sub-Sahara African countries. In the light of the above, the hypothesis below will be tested in this study.

(i). Foreign diversification does not significantly impact on performance of quoted deposit money banks in selected Sub-Sahara African countries.

Following this introduction, section two deals with the conceptual issues and review of empirical literature on foreign diversification. Section three reviews data and methodology, while Section four gives an overview of empirical analysis and Section five will be conclusion and recommendation.

2. Literature Review

Foreign diversification occurs when a firm operates in a market outside her national boundaries. Capar and Kotabe (2013), opine that foreign diversification is a growth strategy that has major influence on the firm's performance. This effect according to Ansoff (1957) is a growth strategy.

Buhner (1987) maintained that foreign diversification gives prospective market gains which afford corporate organizations avenues for increased growth. Diminution of risk works through diversification owing to the co-movements in return between diverse markets are not perfect; these unsynchronized movements between different markets mitigate volatilities in an internationally diversified portfolio. According to modern portfolio theory, a total risk is sub-divided into diversified and undiversified risk. A well-balanced portfolio is one where the diversifiable risk is reduced as much as possible. The most accepted argument has been developed on theoretical assumptions that firm takes advantage of the benefits of internationalization in foreign markets (Hymer, 1976; Caves, 2007). Firms with well-developed strong competencies in local markets can exploit the benefits of international market and consequently it is argued that the higher the level of internationalization of a firm, the higher would be the exploitation of tangible and intangible resources that are expected to boost productivity (Hymer, 1976).

In a study by Doaei and Shavazipour (2013) on manufacturing quoted companies in Malaysia stock exchange. The data of 102 firms were collected spanning 2006 to 2010 from the stock exchange in Malaysia. Six output variables and four input variables were selected using DEA methodology. By applying the input-oriented BCC model, the efficiency scores of 102 selected firms listed in Bursa Malaysia were calculated over the given period. As a result, only six DMUs (DMU 9, 12, 58, 59, 61 and 62) were efficient in all years. The result also showed that increasing in the product diversification and international diversification can leave a positive effect on efficiency and raise the corporation's efficiency score. Then, the improvement strategy has been suggested by slack analysis. Further analysis on the Malmquist productivity Index indicate that Bursa Malaysian experienced on average 88% productivity loss from 2006 to 2010. Decomposition of the MIP is described that a negative shift in frontier technology (about 88%) is the only source of productivity loss and the overall 15.44% improvement in its technical efficiency could not rectify these huge productivity regressions.

Brighi and Venturelli (2013) examine the effects of revenue and geographic diversification on bank performance of Italian banks for the period 2006-2011. A panel regression econometric method was used to analyze the data. The central results suggest that revenue and geographical diversification play a role in determining bank performance. Their findings have implication for the diverse stakeholders (regulators, bank managers, investors and supervisors) in regards to banks' stability and performance.

Jouida, Bouzgarrou and Hellara (2017) in their study investigated the effects of activity and geographic diversification on performance: evidence from French financial institutions. The study examined 244 French financial institutions and observed a negative relationship between diversification and performance. Hence, this association is significantly positive when firms indulge in dual diversification policy.

Yildirim and Efthyvoulou (2018) analyze the effect of geographic diversification on bank value by using a data set sample period between 2004-2013. The system GMM estimator was used for the analysis. Their findings revealed that the value impact of international diversification depends on a bank's home country: higher levels of diversification are associated with changes in valuations only for banks originating from emerging countries.

2.1. Theoretical Considerations

This study is hinged on market power theory and the debate for market power surfaced from Porter (1980) opinion of positioning corporate firms and entities in their different

environments by means of strategies sets that differentiates a firm's position from the rivals in business environment. In stifling competition, diversification is an indispensable strategy (Barney, 1991; 2002), it gives corporate firm the avenue to build market power, hence granting it access to conglomerate powers. Firms are able to advance their competitive power in the market by venturing into other markets through diversification which includes foreign diversification. This is not because of their particular position in that market but because of their positions in their individual markets (Gribbin, 1976). This clout in the foremost market spurs the firm to penetrate new markets through grasping policies supported by its location, funds and power in its contemporary market. Firms can annex market power through diversification in three ways: cross subsidization by means of earnings from one market to shore up voracious pricing in another; mutual forbearance of rigorous competition among competitors; and reciprocal buying among units of a multi-business firm which forecloses small competition (Montgomery, 1994). With this approach, firms are able to overcome competition thereby earning profits above the average market profits. As such, market power theory hypothesis a positive relationship between diversification and firm performance.

3. Methodology and Model Specification

This study used secondary data sourced and computed from the various audited financial statements of sampled deposit money banks (corporate diversification variables) in the selected countries over the period 2007 – 2017. A total of fifty (50) deposit money banks across eleven (11) Sub-Sahara African countries were used in this study (see appendix one). The choice of the eleven countries is based on their vibrant stock exchanges and compliant to voluntary sustainability report guidelines of the selected bourses.

This study employed panel unit root analysis, co-integration test and the system- GMM. The panel unit root is to ascertain the stationarity and normality of the data in the variables in the specified model. Rationalization for the test of stationarity is to guarantee that the data are consistent for the system-GMM application. The system Generalized Method of Moments became essential to solve the drawbacks of endogeneity of independent variables with dependent variable, omitted variables, measurement biases and heterogeneity problems associated with cross-country data.

3.1 Model Specification

The two models are anchored on the theoretical framework of market power theory (MPT) as earlier stated. In order to examine the impact of foreign diversification on performance of quoted deposit money banks, the model was adapted from Olarewaju, Migiro and Sibanda (2017) by incorporating a market base performance measure (Tobin Q).

The functional forms of the models are stated below;

$$NIM_{it-1} = f[FD, IND, SD, BSIZE, BAGE] \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

$$TOBINQ_{it-1} = f[FD, IND, SD, BSIZE, BAGE] \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

The econometric forms of the models are stated below as;

$$NIM_{it-1} = \beta_0 + \beta_2 FD_{it} + \beta_1 IND_{it} + \beta_3 SD_{it} + \beta_4 SIZE_{it} + \beta_5 BAGE_{it} + U_t \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

$$TOBINQ_{it-1} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FD_{it} + \beta_2 IND_{it} + \beta_3 SD_{it} + \beta_4 SIZE_{it} + \beta_5 BAGE_{it} + U_t \dots \dots (4)$$

Where:

FD = Foreign diversification measured as Ln [1 + number of foreign subsidiaries]

IND = Income diversification is measured as the ratio of net interest income minus other operating income to total operating income deducted from one (1)

SD = Subsidiary diversification measured as $\ln [1 + \text{number of foreign subsidiaries} + \text{domestic subsidiaries}]$

BSIZE = Size of the Bank measured as $\ln(\text{market value})$. Where market value is share price x number of shares outstanding

BAGE = Age of the Bank is measured as the number of years from the day the firm was established till 2017.

$$NIM = \frac{(\text{Investment Income} - \text{Interest Expenses})}{\text{Average Earning Assets}}$$

TobinQ = Tobin Q is measured as the summation of market capitalization and total liabilities minus the net cash flow to total asset

Where i represent countries in all sample and t represents the scope or period of study.

$\beta_0 - \beta_5$ are parameters to be estimated and U_t is the error term.

4. Analysis of Result

From the Table of unit roots tests above, the levels variables (except SD-subsubsidiary diversification) are all significant in terms of the test statistics at either the 1 percent levels based on the LLC, IPS and ADF-Fisher tests. Only the Breitung test reports non-significant tests values for all the variables in levels. This shows that for all the variables (except SD) the null hypothesis of the stationarity cannot be rejected in levels, suggesting that the variables among the firms do not follow a defined pattern of movement over any given period.

Table 1: Panel Unit root test result

Variable s	Homogeneous Unit Root Process				Heterogeneous Unit Root Process			
	Level		1 st Diff		Level		1 st Diff	
	LLC	Breitung	LLC	Breitung	IPS	ADF-Fisher	IPS	ADF-Fisher
<i>NIM</i>	-29.5**	-1.17	-22.6**	-6.03**	-8.19**	203.2**	-9.39**	264.9**
<i>Tobin_Q</i>	-2.39**	-0.94	13.96**	-4.32**	-2.39**	148.3**	-7.84**	247.3**
<i>IND</i>	-6.75**	-1.08	-15.4**	-3.22**	-2.42**	151.2**	-7.56**	247.9**
<i>FD</i>	-13.8**	-1.13	-7.49**	-5.01**	-2.18**	51.1**	59.9**	97.9**
<i>SD</i>	-0.99	-0.51	-7.95**	-4.18**	1.75	51.7	-3.27**	109.6**
<i>SIZE</i>	-8.11**	-1.02	-6.48**	-3.00**	-0.89	117.5	-2.96**	166.6**

Note: * and ** indicate significance at 5 and 1 percent respectively.

Source: Author's computations

The variables are apparently not time dependent. However, the result also shows that for the first difference variables, all the test statistics are significant, thereby leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis of no unit roots in the first differences. These results strongly indicate that most of the variables are stationary both in level and at first differences. This finding is supported by both the homogenous and heterogeneous panel unit root tests. Since the variables are also stationary after first difference, we then proceed to establish their long run relationship below.

Table 2: Cointegration Test Results

Pedroni Residual Cointegration Test					Kao Residual Test
	Statistic	Weighted Statistics		Statistics	
NIM Equation					
Panel v	-15.66**	-11.62**	Group rho	9.11**	3.49**
Panel rho	20.34**	14.72**	Group PP	-12.18**	
Panel PP	-3.32**	-7.38**	Group ADF	-7.01**	
Panel ADF	-4.38**	-5.34**			
Tobin Q Equation					
Panel v	5.12**	-9.01**	Group rho	12.06**	-3.07**
Panel rho	2.62**	7.34**	Group PP	-11.52**	
Panel PP	-8.37**	-9.21**	Group ADF	-0.57**	
Panel ADF	3.55**	-3.19**			

Note: * and ** indicate significance at 5 and 1 percent respectively.
Source: Author's computations, 2018

From the tests results, it can be seen that the tests based on Pedroni residual all report values that are significant at the 1 percent level for both the grouped and ungrouped tests. All test processes, including rho, PP and ADF are significant for both the within and between tests (at the 1 percent level). Thus, the null hypothesis of no co-integration is rejected for the combination of the variables, with each of the dependent variables.

Table 3: Sys-GMM Results for NIM

Variable	1	2	3	4	5
NIM _{t-1}	0.378** (0.000)	0.318** (0.000)	0.329** (0.002)	0.361** (0.000)	0.377** (0.000)
Foreign diversification	-	-4.892 (0.097)	-	-7.772** (0.000)	-6.550** (.000)
Income diversification	1.323** (0.000)	-	-	1.310** (0.000)	1.180** (0.000)
Subsidiary diversification	-	-	4.773* (0.033)	5.257* (0.036)	6.069** (0.003)
SIZE	-2.721 (0.117)	-9.369 (0.271)	-6.723** (0.002)	-	-2.532 (0.183)
BAGE	-0.142 (0.483)	-0.253* (0.026)	-0.149 (0.209)	-	-0.182 (0.101)
Overidentifyingrestriction (Hansen J-prob)	0.172	0.354	0.402	0.238	0.194
Arrelano-Bond AR(1)	-1.69	-1.96*	-1.60	-1.99*	-1.49
Arrelano-Bond AR(2)	-0.24	0.44	0.27	-0.17	-0.01
No. of observations	540	540	540	540	540

Note: * and ** indicate significance at 5 and 1 percent respectively. T-probabilities in parentheses below each coefficient
Source: Author's computations, 2018

The result of the estimates for net interest margin (NIM) as an indicator of bank performance are reported in Table 3. The results also have impressive diagnostic indicators, with all the Hansen-J statistic probabilities in the region that suggest appropriate selection of instruments used for the GMM estimation. The Arrelano-Bond AR statistic for the first and second lags both show that the estimates are free from serial correlation for the panel variables in levels. The coefficient of the lagged dependent variable has the expected positive sign, which suggests long run equilibrium for NIM among the banks in the sample. The coefficient of the lagged dependent variable hovers around 0.31 – 0.37 percent, which is relatively low and indicates that adjustment to long run equilibrium is slow. On the other hand, the results show that only the NIM (efficiency of fund investment by banks) has a positive lagged coefficient in the GMM estimates among the performance indicators, suggesting that only NIM adjusts to equilibrium level in the long term based on the effects of diversification and other factors.

The result shows that the coefficient of foreign diversification is negative for each of the estimates in the result. The coefficients also pass the significance tests at the 1 percent level, indicating that foreign diversification has significant debilitating effect on efficiency of funds investment among the banks in the African region. Increased foreign diversification reduces NIM for banks. Apparently, with higher foreign diversification, there appears to be losses in terms of efficiency of fund use as the banks grow wider. Like the result for the ROA estimates, the negative effect of foreign diversification on NIM intensifies when other aspects of diversification are taken into cognizance in the model.

Income diversification is also positive on NIM for each of the estimation structure. The coefficients are all high, and indicate that with increased income diversification, banks tend to enjoy better interest margins. The effect is relatively similar even when other diversification aspects are controlled in the model. This shows that it does not matter the other forms of diversification a bank involves in, income diversification tends to always improve NIM for the banks (which is a similar result to that of ROA). The coefficient of subsidiary diversification also passes the significance test at the 1 percent level for each of the estimation outputs, suggesting that higher subsidiary diversification leads to improvements in NIM by banks. The positive effects are higher when other diversifications are included in the estimates. Thus, the dichotomy of the effects of diversification on NIM runs in the line of foreign or domestic diversification. The two domestic diversification variables have significant positive impacts on NIM but the foreign diversification variable has a negative effect on NIM. The coefficients of size and age are mainly insignificant in the results (especially the full estimates), suggesting that neither bank size nor age has significant impact on the capacity of banks to invest funds more efficiently

Table 4: Sys-GMM Results for Tobin's Q

Variable	1	2	3	4	5
TOBIN_Q _{t-1}	-0.031** (0.000)	-0.014** (0.000)	-0.066** (0.000)	-0.095** (0.000)	-0.055** (0.000)
Foreign diversification		-0.808** (0.000)		1.031** (0.000)	-2.325** (0.000)
Income diversification	-0.044** (0.002)			-0.424** (0.000)	0.447** (0.000)
Subsidiary diversification			-0.941** (0.000)	-0.675** (0.002)	-9.423** (0.002)
SIZE	1.667** (0.001)	2.169** (0.003)	2.205** (0.001)		2.418** (0.001)

BAGE	-0.156** (0.000)	-0.194** (0.000)	-0.189** (0.000)		-2.028** (0.004)
Overidentifying restriction (Hansen J-prob)	0.387	0.461	0.424	0.491	0.302
Arrelano-Bond AR(1)	-2.03*	-1.94*	-2.00*	-1.83	-1.91*
Arrelano-Bond AR(2)	0.73	-0.74	-0.80	0.92	-0.77
No. of observations	540	540	540	540	540

Note: * and ** indicate significance at 5 and 1 percent respectively. T-probabilities in parentheses below each coefficient.

Source: Author's computations, 2018

This measure of bank performance in the analysis is Tobin's Q which relates to the performance in terms of the stock market. The diagnostic tests in the results are also impressive based on the Hansen J-test and the Arrelano-Bond AR tests. The coefficient of the over-identifying restriction test statistic for the GMM estimates possess the expected values (i.e. greater than 0.1), indicating that the instruments used in the estimation are valid. The Arrelano and Bonds first and second order serial correlation tests also possess the expected outcomes. The tests show that the first order statistic is statistically significant and has the expected negative sign. The second order statistic is not significant (in line with *a priori* expectation), suggesting that the model error terms are serial uncorrelated in levels. This provides additional support for the instrument's validity test indicated by the Hansen J-statistic.

From the result, the coefficient of foreign diversification is essentially negative for the results with control or without control for other diversification factors. This implies that foreign diversification actually leads to reduction of the banks' Tobin Q value across the countries. This result is actually surprising since increased foreign participation in the foreign sector should boost investors' confidence among the banks. What the results reveal however is that with increased foreign participation, banks tend loose competitive advantage in terms of improving market value. Again, using Net interest margin (NIM) and Tobin Q as performance indicator, foreign diversification showed a significant discounted relationship with the aforementioned dependent variables. These findings are in line with the studies of Sammehtal (2017), Jouida and Hellara (2017), Estes (2014) and Berger and Ofek (1995). The implication of these mixed findings is that with increased foreign participation, quoted deposit money banks tend loose competitive advantage in terms of improving their respective market values across selected Sub-Sahara African countries in the sample. This can also give credence to the fact that majority of the stock exchanges apart from Johannesburg stock exchange and Nigeria stock exchange are still in their infantile stages in regards to volume and value of trade that takes place in their respective floors owing to the depth and breadth of their markets.

Income diversification has a unique pattern of effects on firms' performance in terms of Tobins Q. On its own, the effect is negative but with other diversification, the effect is positive (with no control for size and age) and positive (with control for size and age). This implies that income diversification will only have positive impact on Tobin Q when the banks also have foreign and subsidiary diversification and for older and larger banks. Since income diversification tends to improve the performance of the banks in the stock market through expanding financial capacities of the banks, other forms of expansion are likely to make these effects more stable.

The coefficient of subsidiary diversification is also negative all through the different estimates and significant at the 1 percent level. This shows that subsidiary diversification also tends to reduce Tobins Q. Again, this does not seem to agree with *a priori* expectations since more subsidiaries should improve the value of the banks through expansion of asset

base. However, these results reveal that for banks in Africa, subsidiary diversification would tend to depreciate the banks' market value. The coefficient of bank size was significant in each of the estimates, suggesting that larger banks have better higher market value than smaller banks. On the other hand, older banks do not have higher market value than younger counterparts as demonstrated by the negative coefficients of the BAGE variable.

Foreign diversification does not significantly impact on performance of quoted deposit money banks in selected Sub-Sahara African countries.

From the results of the GMM estimates, the coefficient of foreign diversification passed the significance test in each estimation at the 1 percent level since the associated probabilities with the individual t-values are all less than 0.01. Based on these results, the null hypothesis is rejected in this case and a significant impact is demonstrated from foreign diversification of the banks on their performance. The direction of the impact is however not linear as shown in the estimates.

5. Concluding Remarks and Recommendations

Foreign diversification of deposit money banks has been embraced by most banks and has taken the center stage of most economies in the world. This is so because it helps in building a virile, efficient and robust banking system which can spark the performance of the individual banks and lead to the overall growth of the various national economies. In order to gain extensively from the gains of foreign diversification, regulatory authorities of SSA countries should put in place different institutional reforms that will help in carrying out banking activities within the SSA regions with little or no stringent rules that can help deposit money banks to operate in the different financial markets.

The regulatory agencies within each of the countries in the region should also consider providing enabling environment for encouraging intra-regional foreign diversification of banks. The study has suggested that banks tend to lose certain competitive efficiency when they involve in foreign diversification, this can be reduced when environments are conducive for region-based banks to interact with financial markets of other countries within the region. Furthermore, the impact of foreign diversification was negative in all the estimation results. This suggests that most banks are yet to adopt credible foreign diversification strategies that will yield positive performance outcomes. Some of the banks are likely to be operating with toxic assets of foreign enterprises and as a result, unable to perform financially. It is therefore necessary for these banks to engage in proper environmental scanning and assets monitoring in order to ensure that, their investments go into proper channels in the foreign domain.

This study is limited by focusing on just one method of data analysis (System GMM). Further studies on corporate diversification and banks performance should utilize other econometric techniques like Panel Vector Auto regressive (PVAR) and Panel Vector Error Correction Model (PVECM) to examine the effect of the relationship so that the outcome will be more robust and encompassing.

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APPENDIX 1: Sample of Selected Banks in SSA

S/N	Company	COUNTRY
1	First National Bank Botswana	Botswana
2	Barclays Bank Botswana	Botswana
3	Stand Chartered Botswana	Botswana
4	Lethego holdings	Botswana
5	Ecobank Transnational Inc	Ghana
6	Standard Chartered Bank Ghana	Ghana
7	Ghana Commercial Bank	Ghana
8	Cal Bank	Ghana
9	Societe General Ghana	Ghana
10	Hfc Bank Ghana	Ghana
11	Equity Group Holdings	Kenya
12	Kenya Commercial Bank	Kenya
13	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya	Kenya
14	Barclays Bank Of Kenya	Kenya
15	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya	Kenya
16	Cfc Stanbic Of Kenya	Kenya
17	Nic Bank	Kenya
18	Cooperative Bank of Kenya	Kenya
19	National Bank Of Kenya	Kenya
20	Standard Bank Malawi	Malawi
21	First Merchant Bank	Malawi
22	Nbs Bank Malawi	Malawi
23	National Bank of Malawi	Malawi
24	SBM Holdings	Mauritius
25	Fnb Namibia Holdings	Namibia
26	Guaranty Trust Bank	Nigeria
27	Zenith Bank	Nigeria
28	Access Bank	Nigeria
29	United Bank For Africa	Nigeria
30	Stanbic Ibtch Holding	Nigeria
31	First Bank Holding	Nigeria
32	Fidelity Bank	Nigeria
33	Sterling Bank	Nigeria
34	First City Monumental Bank	Nigeria
35	Diamond Bank	Nigeria
36	Wema Bank	Nigeria
37	Union Bank	Nigeria
38	Standard Bank Group	South Africa
39	Firststrand	South Africa
40	Barclays Africa Group (Absa Bank)	South Africa
41	Nedbank Group	South Africa
42	Capitec Bank Holdings	South Africa
43	Stanbic Bank Uganda	Uganda
44	Development Finance Uganda	Uganda
45	Bank of Baroda	Uganda
46	Standard Chartered Bank Zambia	Zambia
47	Investrust Bank	Zambia
48	Zambia National Commercial Bank	Zambia
49	Cbz Holdings	Zimbabwe
50	Fbc Holdings	Zimbabwe

Source: Author's compilation, 2018.